# Human Trafficking in Nebraska

LOCAL PERSPECTIVES ON A GLOBAL ISSUE

### Definition

- "Trafficking in persons" and "human trafficking" have been used as umbrella terms for the act of recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for compelled labor or commercial sex acts through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-386), as amended, and the Palermo Protocol describe this compelled service using a number of different terms, including involuntary servitude, slavery or practices similar to slavery, debt bondage, and forced labor.
- Human trafficking can include but does not require movement. People may be considered trafficking victims regardless of whether they were born into a state of servitude, were transported to the exploitative situation, previously consented to work for a trafficker, or participated in a crime as a direct result of being trafficked. At the heart of this phenomenon is the traffickers' goal of exploiting and enslaving their victims and the myriad coercive and deceptive practices they use to do so.
- U.S. Department of State <a href="http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2013/210543.htm">http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2013/210543.htm</a>

# Definition continued...

- 2014 Nebraska Revised Statutes
  28-830 Human trafficking; forced labor or services; terms, defined.
- Labor trafficking means knowingly recruiting, enticing, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining by any means or attempting to recruit, entice, harbor, transport, provide, or obtain by any means a person eighteen years of age or older or a minor intending or knowing that the person will be subjected to forced labor or services;
- ▶ Sex trafficking means knowingly recruiting, enticing, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining by any means or knowingly attempting to recruit, entice, harbor, transport, provide, or obtain by any means a minor or person eighteen years of age or older for the purpose of having such person engage in commercial sexual activity, sexually explicit performance, or the production of pornography or to cause or attempt to cause a minor or person eighteen years of age or older to engage in commercial sexual activity, sexually explicit performance, or the production of pornography;

# Recognizing Signs

- Common Work and Living Conditions: The Individual(s) in Question
- Is not free to leave or come and go as he/she wishes
- ▶ Is under 18 and is providing commercial sex acts
- ▶ Is in the commercial sex industry and has a pimp / manager
- Is unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips
- Works excessively long and/or unusual hours
- Is not allowed breaks or suffers under unusual restrictions at work
- Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off
- Was recruited through false promises concerning the nature and conditions of his/her work
- High security measures exist in the work and/or living locations (e.g. opaque windows, boarded up windows, bars on windows, barbed wire, security cameras, etc.)

# Recognizing Signs continued....

- Poor Mental Health or Abnormal Behaviour
  - ▶ Is fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid
  - Exhibits unusually fearful or anxious behaviour after bringing up law enforcement
  - Avoids eye contact
- Poor Physical Health
  - Lacks health care
  - Appears malnourished
  - Shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture

# Recognizing Signs continued....

#### Lack of Control

- Has few or no personal possessions
- ▶ Is not in control of his/her own money, no financial records, or bank account
- Is not in control of his/her own identification documents (ID or passport)
- Is not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party may insist on being present and/or translating)

#### Other

- Claims of just visiting and inability to clarify where he/she is staying/address
- Lack of knowledge of whereabouts and/or do not know what city he/she is in
- Loss of sense of time
- ► Has numerous inconsistencies in his/her story
- This list is not exhaustive and represents only a selection of possible indicators. Also, the red flags in this list may not be present in all trafficking cases and are not cumulative. Learn more at www.traffickingresourcecenter.org.

# Polaris National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline

1-888-373-7888

Text: HELP to BeFree (233733)

24 hours a day, 7 days a week, more than 200 languages.

## Presenter Contact Information

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